

“The Glory of Christmas!”

Lloyd Larson



Chancel Choir:

"Gloria, Hosanna in Excelsis!"
"Angels We Have Heard on High"
"On Christmas Night All Christians Sing to Hear the News the Angels Bring"
"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Narration 1: The Hope of Christmas

Narrator 1: This is a day of celebration! A time to worship Christ, the newborn King! A moment to cherish the glory of Christmas!

Emmanuel: God with us! This is an hour to recall and rejoice in the wonder and mystery of the incarnation story when God sent himself in the form of a baby - the Messiah - to become one of us, that we might become one with him. This is the hope of Christmas.

Narrator 2: Israel, the chosen people of God, were a people walking in darkness, living in a land of deep darkness. For generations, they toiled under the oppressive rule of Egypt, living in bondage and torture, longing to experience release from their captivity; yearning for a savior who would come and deliver them from their pain and sorrow.

Narrator 1: Their sustaining hope was found in a profound conviction that a Messiah would eventually come to save them; that this Savior would one day deliver them from their long days of darkness to a place of perpetual light. It was this hope - this promise - which carried them forward when they were weary with the daily tasks of life.

Narrator 2: And it is this same hope which sustains us in the journey of faith and life: that this Messiah - this deliverer - comes to us when we need him most. Children, don't grow weary, for the time is drawing nigh.

Chancel Choir:



Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
The time is drawing nigh...
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning

Children, don't grow weary.....
For the time is growing nigh.....
Darker midnight lies before us...

The time is drawing nigh...
See the morning star, - arising....
The time is drawing nigh....

Children don't grow weary.....
The time is drawing nigh....
Now our night will soon be over.....
The time is drawing nigh.....

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning....
The time is drawing nigh....!

Narration 2: The Promise of Christmas

Narrator 1: In due time, God sent a prophet who issued a clarion call that the time was indeed near: "Prepare the Way of the Lord. Make straight in the wilderness a highway for our god. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed!"

Narrator 2: This prophet, this forerunner of the Messiah, was a man named John. His father, Zechariah, had faithfully served the lord as a priest. John was to be blessed with the spirit and power of Elijah; gifts that would prepare the hearts of people young and old for the coming Messiah. This was the promise of Christmas!

Chancel Choir:

A voice cries out , "prepare the way!.....of the Lord!"
The prophet cries out, "prepare the way!of the Lord!"
Ev'ry valley shall be lifted up, ev'ry mountain and hill made low.
Ev'ry crooked path shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.....

A voice cries out

So comfort, comfort my people, says the Lord God who reigns on high..
To Jerusalem say , "your night is gone, for the Lord has heard your cry ----

Prepare the way of the Lord a voice cries out.....the prophet cries out....

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Narration 3: The Wonder of Christmas

Narrator 2: God's plan for sending a savior was far different than anyone could have imagined. He chose a young woman by the name of Mary to give birth to this one he was sending to rescue and redeem his children.

Narrator 1: the angel Gabriel greeted Mary: "do not be afraid. You have found favor with God. You are to bear a child - a son - and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the son of the most high!"

Narrator 2: Mary was overwhelmed at the news. In amazement and wonder, she exclaimed, "but how can this be?" The angel responded, "the power of the most high will overshadow you. And the holy one to be born will be called the son of God."

Narrator 1: In humble response, Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled. "This is the wonder of Christmas!"

Chancel Choir:

"Child of Promise, Child of Love"

soloist: Polly Edwards

My soul rejoices in the Lord! I've seen his love and his pow'r proclaimed.
His faithful servant I shall be, I'll bear his child, Jesus is his name.

Glory to the Lord most high! He comes to set his people free!...
God with us, Emmanuel; the Prince of Peace for you, for me.

Child of promise , child of love; hope of the world, the glory of our God who comes from heav'n above
Child of promise, child of love.

Glory to the Lord most high.....

Narrator 2: Mary and Joseph, to whom she was to be married, had gone to Bethlehem for a census of the entire roman world. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born. She gave birth to her first-born, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there had been no room for them in the inn.

Chancel Choir:

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger; there he lay, the undefiled to the world a stranger...
This was the son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story!
Praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of Glory!-
My soul rejoices in the Lord! I've seen his love and his pow'r proclaimed.

Narration 4: The Majesty of Christmas

Narrator 1: The Messiah, the Savior of the world, had been born in the remote village of Bethlehem with no one other than Mary and Joseph to witness this miraculous event. But God's plan included a means of making the fulfilled promise public.

Narrator 2: There were shepherds keeping watch over their flocks out in the fields nearby that night. An angel of the lord appeared to them, and the glory of the lord shone around them, and they were terrified!

Narrator 1: But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Narrator 2: And suddenly, a great company of the heavenly host appeared, with the angel, praising god and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all on whom his favor rests."

Narrator 1: This is the majesty of Christmas!

Treble Choir with Chancel Choir: "Jesus is Born Tonight!"

Angels are singing, heavens are ringing, jesus is born tonight!.....
"Glory to God!: the angels are singing. Good news to all the earth they are bringing:
"Jesus is born tonight!".....
"Hark the herald angels sing".....
Angels are singing, heavens are ringing.....
"Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! - Hail the son of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, -ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark the herald angels sing.....
Angels are singing,

Narration 5: The Mystery of Christmas

Narrator 1: When the angels had left them and gone back into heaven, the shepherds, still basking in the glow of the amazing encounter with God's redemption story, said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has happened, and which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Narrator 2: They spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherd said to them.

Narrator 1: But Mary - the chosen servant of god, the mother of the newborn Christ-child - treasured up all these things as she pondered them in her heart.

Narrator 2: This is the mystery of Christmas!

Chancel Choir:

"Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling heart....."

"still, still, still,.....:"

"infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall....."

Narration 6: The Brilliance of Christmas

Narrator 1: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light had shined.

Narrator 2: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, during the reign of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem in search of the young child. "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Narrator 1: After determining where the prophets had foretold that Jesus would be born, Herod sent the Magi to Bethlehem saying. "Go and make a careful search for the child. Then report to me so that I too may go and worship him."

Narrator 2: They went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east guided them to the place where the Child was. They bowed down and worshipped him as they offered their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Narrator 1: Guided by a shining star in the east, these Magi had found the bright and morning star; the eternal light of heaven.

Narrator 2: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you! This is the brilliance of Christmas!

Chancel Choir:

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and come to our aid;
Star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant redeemer is laid,.....

What shall we give him, in costly devotion? Shall we bring incense and off'rings divine,
Gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine,.....

"O star of wonder, star of night....."

"o brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and come to our aid;
Star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant redeemer is laid....."

Narration 7: The Glory of Christmas

Narrator 2: The perfect light - Jesus, son of the living God - came to deliver not only Israel from her long dark night, but also to guide us on our journey of faith.

Narrator 1: The sun will no longer be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

Narrator 2: In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made. In him was life, and that life was the light to all people!

Narrator 1: Jesus has come: the word now flesh who made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only, who came from the father, full of grace and truth.

This is the glory of Christmas!

Chancel Choir:

"The Glory of Christmas!"

"Gloria!....., Hosanna in Excelsis!....."

"He is born, the divine Christ child"

"O come all ye faithful"

"He is born...../.....Gloria!.....Hosanna in Excelsis!
Sing Gloria.....!"

*The orchestra was able to join us today through
the generosity of Liz Savage.
We are sincerely thankful for her gift.*

